



Neighborhood



Partnership



Program

**Building Stronger Neighborhoods
in the City of Las Vegas**

Neighborhood Services Department

Neighborhood Planning and Support Division

City of Las Vegas

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Neighborhood Partnership Program

The **Neighborhood Services Department**, created by the Mayor and City Council, provides direct and action oriented services to City of Las Vegas neighborhoods. The **Neighborhood Planning and Support Division** focuses on creating and supporting neighborhoods of choice by working with neighborhood residents to organize neighborhood associations; identify issues and opportunities; and provide technical support and guidance. The Division's **Neighborhood Partnership Program** encompasses a variety of services and programs designed to build better neighborhoods and has three components: capacity/community building, neighborhood driven strategies, and implementation.

Capacity/Community Building

Neighborhood planners work one-on-one with neighborhood associations and other neighborhood institutions to help develop strategies that can empower neighborhoods.

To assist in these efforts, the following programs and services are available to registered neighborhood associations.

- **Community Organizing** assistance is available to neighborhoods wanting to “organize” their neighbors;
- **Development Notification** notifies registered neighborhood associations of development applications that are located within their neighborhood boundaries and up to one mile surrounding;
- **Neighborhood Newsletters (block by block)** is a bi-monthly newsletter mailed to all registered neighborhood associations, keeping them informed of programs, activities and events;
- **Neighborhood Workshops** cover a variety of “capacity building” topics and are planned for neighborhood residents to receive personalized support and assist in the development and growth of neighborhood organizations;
- **Neighborhood Partners Fund** is available to assist neighborhood associations in improving the livability of Las Vegas neighborhood through community matched funding for neighborhood improvement projects; and the
- **Youth Neighborhood Association Partnership Program (YNAPP)** taps into the gifts of young people while helping them grow into stewards of their community. This program enables middle and high school youth to carry out community building projects of their own design.



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Neighborhood Driven Strategies

The most successful neighborhood initiatives have been those where the neighborhood takes responsibility and ownership in the development and implementation of the initiative.

Neighborhood planners facilitate the development and implementation of neighborhood identified strategies that fall into three categories:

- **Short Term Action Plans:** Neighborhoods interested in addressing issues that can be resolved quickly develop short term action plans with the assistance of their neighborhood planner. Most neighborhoods utilize this method.
- **Improvement Projects:** These are more complex projects which involve the coordination of several departments or agencies to implement. With the assistance of the neighborhood planner, the neighborhood identifies the project and develops the strategy to implement the project.
- **Neighborhood Plans:** For those neighborhoods needing a more comprehensive approach to address multiple and difficult issues, the Neighborhood Planning Process is available. The Neighborhood Planning Process is an officially recognized process and the Neighborhood Planning Guidelines outline all of the steps in developing a self-initiated neighborhood plan. Upon the adoption of a neighborhood plan by City Council, a neighborhood plan is recognized as a component of the City's General Plan.

Implementation

The Neighborhood Partnership Program incorporates the facilitation and coordinated implementation of neighborhood strategies. The City recognizes its role in working with citizens to identify their vision, and then to create both the opportunity and the process to realize it.

Various financial resources are used depending on the needs of the neighborhood. Examples of those resources are:

- Federal Grant Dollars
- Capital Improvement Plan
- Community Reinvestment Dollars
- Grants/Foundations
- Partnering with Private Enterprise



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Commonly Asked Questions

What is a Neighborhood Association?

Neighborhood associations are volunteer-based organizations and formed to actively represent the community that wants to maintain a desired quality of life. Neighborhood associations give neighbors a united voice to help neighborhoods address pertinent issues and concerns. Renters, homeowners, property owners and business operators are encouraged to become active in a neighborhood association.

What are the benefits of being a part of a neighborhood association?

A neighborhood association is an invaluable resource to the community and their elected leaders. Neighborhood associations create partnerships every day to identify neighborhood issues and work on solutions.

What responsibilities are associated with a neighborhood association?

Developing a neighborhood association involves a certain amount of responsibility. It is important to always keep these fundamental principles active when functioning as a neighborhood association:

- include interaction with members, residents and the City;
- inform members and important stakeholders of issues for discussion;
- establish an orderly and democratic means for making representative decisions
- establish and following a clear method for reporting to the City actions which accurately reflect the neighborhood's position.

How do you find out if there is already a neighborhood association in my area?

Call the Neighborhood Planning and Support Division at 229-6269 to find out. They can tell you whether a neighborhood association already exists in your area and who to contact.

If there isn't a neighborhood association in my area, how do I start one?

Before you consider starting a neighborhood association, consider the following tips:

- When identifying your neighborhood association boundaries, make them reasonable and manageable;
- Your neighborhood association should make its membership open to all persons residing, owning property or having a place of business within your neighborhood;
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(tips continued)

- Inform everyone living within your neighborhood association boundaries of an opportunity to get involved and participate;
- Be willing to invest the time and resources to hold at least one general meeting a year;
- Assure that your neighborhood association truly represents the majority of the population identified in your neighborhood association boundaries.

If you're interested in learning more about the Neighborhood Partnership Program and wanting to get involved in your community, please contact the Neighborhood Planning and Support Division at 229-6269.